**Workers of Orient Peper Mill**

4941 SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers who have been thrownout of employment following the closure of the Orient Paper Mill, Brajrajnagar, Orissa;

(b) whether most of these restricted workers have not been paid their wages;

(c) if so, the ..amount of wages outstanding against each worker and by Government; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguard the interest of these workers? THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The Labour & Employment Department, State Government of Orissa, dis-allowed the grant of permission for closure of M/s Orient Paper Mill on'25.2.99.

(c) and (d) Questions not arise since there is no closuie or retrenchment.

**Contract Labour in PSUs, Central and State Government**

4942. SHRI VIJAY. J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of contract labour in PSUs Central and State Government and Private Secter as per latest available estimates;

(b)whether it is a fact that over the past one, decade, the number.of con tract labour even on regular and perennial operations in Government/PSUs have increased by leaps and bound while the service and working conditions of these contract workers continue to deteriorate in practice; and

(c) whether Government have surveyed the Conditions dfcoriiraet labour recently and details thereof for appropriate policy initiative and appropriate nabiraidrneats/revision to the Contract Labour Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) tq (c) The Central Government as well as the State Governments are the "appropriate Government' for the purpose of implementation of the provisions of the Contract Labour

(Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. The data relating to estimated number of contract labour in PSUs/Central and State Government and Private Sector is not maintained centrally.

The appropriate Government can prohibit employment of contract labour in any job/process/operations in any activity. Barring such jobs on which employment of contract labour is prohibited by a notification, the establishment can engage contract labour. There is no authentic data within the knowledge of the Central Government to show that there has been any increase in the number of contract labour in regular and perennial nature of jobs. However, specific ninstances brought to the notice of the Government are dealtwith and appropriate action taken irtaccordance with law. The Act and the rules framed under the Act provide for protection in terms of welfare, health, wages and other service conditions of such contract labour. No survey has recently been made on the conditions of contract labour.

**Scheme of Construction of Houses for Bidi Workers**

4943. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be ple^d locate:

(a) whether Government have constructed a number of houses for bidi workers all over the country;

(b)if so, the figures for 1999-2000, State-wise;

(c) to what extent has the Welfare Commissioner in charge of Andhra Perdesh taken up this seriously;

(d)Weather the Welfare Commissioner has visited any districts in Andhra Pradesh in the last two years;

(e)if so, whether follow-up work has been done;

(f)to what extent has the DGLW mentioned this work or neglected it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (g) Government have given financial assistance for the construction of a large number of houses for beedi workers in various parts of the country.